



First 'Menominee' baby born in the new millenium



L. May/MNN

Above, Seth Jordan Perez pictured with parents Gene and Stephanie Perez, is Menominee Nation's first New Years baby for the year 2000, making him our millenium baby! Seth was 9 lbs. 8 1/4 oz. and 20 1/2 inches in length. Seth's parents were given a special package put together by the staff of the Rural Infant Health Program.

By Liona Tucker
Menominee Nation News

On Wensday, January 5th, a special package of baby supplies was presented to Stephanie and Gene Perez, who are the parents of Seth Jordan Perez, the Menominee tribe's millenium baby.

The package was given to the family by the staff from the Rural Infant Health Program at the Tribal Clinic. Included in the package was a cradle board, pampers and other baby supplies.

The following programs donated to the special package for the millenium baby: Adolescent program,

American Legion Post 497, Hillstop, Honoring Our Children Program, Menominee Casino-Bingo-Hotel, Menominee Super Market, Menominee Tribal Clinic, Rural Infant Health Program, Veterans of the Menominee Nation, Orlin Webster and Women's Personal Health Program.

Rebel indicted in killings of U.S. activists, Menominee Tribal member

Special to
Menominee Nation News

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A left-ist rebel commander was indicted Tuesday on murder charges in the killings of three U.S. activists.

German Briceno, a high-ranking cadre of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, also was charged in absentia with kidnapping, sedition and grand larceny, chief prosecutor Alfonso Gomez said.

Briceno commands rebel forces in the northeastern Colombian region that includes the U'wa Indian reserve.

The three Americans — Terence Freitas, 24, Ingrid Washinawatok, 41, who was a member of the Menominee nation of Wisconsin, and Lahe'ena'e Gay, 39 — had just visited the reserve when rebels abducted them on Feb. 25.

Their bodies were found a week later just across the border in Venezuela. They had been bound and shot to death.

Also indicted Tuesday was

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Legislature provides Neopit elders with handicap accessible bus

By Liona Tucker
Menominee Nation News

The Neopit Elderly Center received a special New Years gift from the Tribal Legislature recently. A brand new white bus, which is handicapped accessible, was presented to the staff members of the center on Thursday, January 6th.

While other legislative members Wendell Askenette and Wilmer Peters Jr. assisted some of the seniors onto the bus, Tribal Chairman, Apesanahkwat, explained to workers how to operate the special handicap features.

While aboard, the Chairman took the seniors and staff for a quick jaunt around the block. The staff and elders



MNN/Liona Tucker

Above, Chairman Apesanahkwat assists Mrs. Myrtle Caldwell safely off the new bus.

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ELDERS:

appeared grateful and the Legislative staff were pleased to see them so happy with their new bus.

These elders have a hard time getting in and out of the van's that were provided to them and the Legislature thought it was about time to provide them with buses they were in need of, explained the Chairman.

With their new bus, the elders won't need to worry about crawling into small van's, and a lot of the seniors wouldn't go to the senior center because it was such a hassle.

Apesanahkwat stated that the bus for the Neopit elders was ordered back in July of 1999 and they (the Legislature) assumed things had been taken care of. When Francis Walker brought to his attention that they had not received the bus yet, the Legislature took care of the problem and now things are settled.

The Chairman also mentioned that a bus has also been ordered for the Keshena Elderly Center, and is due to arrive on March 1st of this year.

REBELS:

Gustavo Bogota, a member of the U'wa tribe charged as an accomplice. Both he and Briceno were still at large. Each could receive up to 60 years in prison if tried and convicted.

The leadership of the 15,000-member FARC has denied that Briceno ordered the killing. It says a rogue squad leader carried out the assassinations without consulting superiors and would be disciplined.

US Ambassador Curtis W. Kamman has said the FARC must accept responsibility for the killings 'at the highest level' and surrender those responsible to civilian justice.